

a discharge manifold, said manifold having a hollow interior chamber, said chamber having at least one inlet for receiving said molten, viscous material from said pump and a discharge opening on at least one side for discharging said molten, viscous material, and a roller;

a casting line positioned down stream of said discharge manifold and comprising an endless casting belt that transports said molten, viscous material upon said casting belt;

Sub 27  
said endless casting belt mounted adjacent said manifold, said belt facing said discharge opening, said roller rotatably mounted adjacent said endless belt to form a gap between an outer surface of said roller and the surface of said belt and said manifold disposed such that said molten, viscous material is received in said gap from said discharge opening, said belt being revolving driven such that said molten, viscous material passes between said gap to form said continuous sheet of molten, viscous material therebetween, wherein said molten, viscous material cools on said belt; and

a first drive mechanism connected to said belt for causing said belt to revolve.

Sub 27  
6. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said manifold is removably mountable from adjacent said endless belt so that more than one type of manifold may be interchangeably mounted adjacent said endless belt.

Sub 27  
7. (Amended) A manifold for forming a continuous sheet from a molten, viscous material upon a casting belt of a casting line moving in a first direction, said manifold comprising:

a roller positioned such that a longitudinal axis of said roller is perpendicular to the first direction of said casting belt;

said casting line positioned down stream of said manifold for transporting said molten, viscous material upon said casting belt, wherein said molten, viscous material cools on said belt;

a chamber, having an interior portion, disposed adjacent to said roller; said chamber having top, bottom, end, upstream and downstream face plates;

Sub 27  
said bottom face open to the casting belt along at least a part of the length of said bottom face;

said downstream face open to the roller along at least a part of the length of said downstream face;

said top face having at least one inlet;

said manifold being removably mountable mounted adjacent said casting belt in at least one mounting area.

16. (Amended) A method for forming a thin continuous sheet of material from a molten, viscous starting material comprising the steps of:

- B
- a. driving a casting belt of a casting line in a constant direction;
  - b. introducing said starting material through at least one inlet into chamber of a manifold that is mounted in a mounting area so that the manifold sits adjacent the casting belt at a fixed distance and disposes said starting material onto said casting belt through an outlet;
  - c. driving a roller in the same direction as said casting belt, said roller being attached to said manifold downstream of said outlet and above said outlet such that said starting material passes between said roller and said belt;
  - d. drawing the starting material from said chamber through the tandem movement of the roller and the casting belt in the same direction;
  - e. dispensing a continuous sheet of material upon the casting belt as the belt is revolvingly driven; and
  - f. cooling said continuous sheet of material on said casting belt.